



Petty Cury c1905 01.05

c.44.6 : Petty Cury

1898 05 09

Still the merry burglar enjoys his nocturnal pleasantries in Cambridge. Instead of going to the seaside for "Saturday to Monday", the latest investigators prefer a weekend in the clothing and spirit establishments of Dale brothers, Petty Cury, where they may satisfy alike their pockets, their interiors, and their sartorial fancy. Both the outfitting establishment and the wine and spirit store were left in their usual security on Saturday night, due attention having been paid to doors, windows, etc. Therefore the enterprising gents sometime between closing time on Saturday and daylight on Monday made their careful way down the back passage from Alexander Street and effected an entrance to the clothing establishment from the rear.

1898 07 05

George Stace, draper, of Petty Cury, Cambridge, was summoned for employing Kate Ladds after eight o'clock contrary to the Workshops and Factories Act. She said she was 17 years of age. On June 4th she began work at nine o'clock in the morning and finished at 9.20 at night. She was not paid anything extra for the overtime. Out of the time mentioned she had an hour and a half for meals. She said some of the employees in the showroom began at 8.30. On this particular night she was making a hat that a lady wanted home that night. Mr Stace was not a hard taskmaster and was not sweating the girls he employed. He was fined one shilling.

1898 07 25

George Baynes, proprietor of the newly opened wax works exhibition in Petty Cury, Cambridge, was summoned for carrying on his show without the permission of the mayor. Dr Cooper (looking at the wax works programme): I see this is a regular chamber of horrors Sergeant Baker said he had told the defendant he was liable to a penalty of £20 and advised him to close the show. The defendant however said he did not think it was necessary as he had a similar show eleven years ago without permission. He kept the exhibition open till 10 o'clock and a large number of persons visited it, the crowd causing great inconvenience in the street. The bench inflicted a fine of 20s.

1898 07 26

A meeting in connection with the proposed Cambridge Ice and Cold Storage Company was held at the University Arms Hotel. A central site had been secured at Petty Cury and they had customers both for ice and cold storage. The two biggest firms in Cambridge had agreed to have cold storage, beside many other gentlemen, and they would have orders for eleven hundred tons of ice for the first weeks working. Some hundreds of shares were taken up before the meeting ended.

1898 12 17

A stroll through Petty Cury, Cambridge and a glance at the shop windows of Boots Limited gives a good idea of the effort which this firm has made to cater for all tastes and all classes in the selection of Christmas presents. The windows have been dressed in a most skilful and artistic fashion and they look very effective. Articles of every conceivable description are on view and an inspection of the interior of the shop soon convinces one that for price and quality, the old adage, "go further and fare worse", very aptly applies. Those desirous of purchasing suitable presents for their cousins, their aunts, and sweethearts should pay a visit to Boots, in the Cury

1899 01 18

A fire which might have resulted in a very large amount of destruction broke out in Petty Cury, Cambridge. Mr Baynes, manager to Messrs Pollard and company, confectioners informed police constable Leonard Savidge at 1.15am that his wife could smell something burning. It was discovered there was a fire at the back of the adjoining shop occupied by Mr George Jackson, butter merchant. The constable ascended to the roof but was unable to get into the yard. Mr Baynes obtained some buckets of water from a tap on the premises and handed them up to him to pour on the flames. Acting sergeant Wright on going into Caxton Court from Sydney Street, found a ladder by which means he got over the wall and there found that a butter barrel, containing a quantity of paper was on fire. There was a considerable quantity of empty boxes and other inflammable goods about the yard and if they had become ignited there would have been disastrous results

1899 12 04

An ostler and an undergraduate were summoned for causing an affray by fighting in Petty Cury. P.C. Belling said he took them both into custody. On the way to the station the undergraduate was wrestled from his custody by another 'Varsityman and his finger was injured. On returning to the Market Hill he saw the student with some friends and he admitted having escaped from custody. After the magistrates had deliberated they found the charges not substantiated and the case was dismissed.

1900

1900 03 09

The large ornamental advertising lamp which hung outside the Star and Garter, Petty Cury, Cambridge, all but cost Mr Ernest Simpkin, a tailor of Russell Street, his life this afternoon. He was walking along the Cury when a bus ran very close to the kerb. The top caught the lamp with such force as to bring it with a crash to the ground and one of the brass ornaments struck him on the side of the head. He was conveyed in a hansom to Mr Lucas, surgeon of St Andrew's street for medical treatment.

1900 08 22

In 1885 a large cattle market was erected & shortly after some buildings were erected for providing refreshment for those who required it. These were very small & now the Star Brewery wished to erect a commodious hotel with 10 bedrooms which would be used to put up those who came to the market to buy cattle. At the present there was no accommodation for Irishmen attending the market. Many come on Friday night with their stock & it was necessary for them to be constantly attending to them. It would be put a considerable way back from the road and have space for 50 to 70 horses. The nearest hotel was the Great Northern but it had only a few beds so they had to go to the Red Lion in Petty Cury. 00 08 22

1900 09 07

At Cambridge police court a girl of 11 years of age was charged with stealing various articles of food, salmon and shrimp paste, tea, herrings, potted ham and preserved peaches from the shop of Messrs Hallack and Bond, Petty Cury. The Chairman said she was very young and the Magistrates felt she had been more sinned against than sinning. Her mother was evidently not a fit person to have charge of her, and she would therefore be sent to a reformatory for five years. They hoped at the end of that time she would be a better girl. The mother was sent to prison for three months with hard labour.

1902 04 29

Outside Cambridge police court there was an air of suppressed excitement. As soon as the doors of the court were opened the space allotted to the public quickly filled. Hundreds were unable to obtain admission and eagerly waited outside for the chance of catching some details. A butcher from Petty Cury was accused of cheating and defrauding Caius College since January 1888. It was alleged that meat was constantly booked to the college which was not delivered at all and the cook was supplied his own meat gratis.

1903 08 11

Sir – I believe a great number of antiquarians in Cambridge will learn with regret that the Falcon Inn Yard in Petty Cury has been removed to make way for modern improvements. So quietly has the old Falcon taken flight that I fear our local photographers have not secured pictures of the old buildings and its destruction has escaped even the lynx-eyed representatives of the Press. I am consoled that I have retained my water-colour drawing of this famous inn, which I made 25 years ago for ‘Old Cambridge’ – W.B. Redfern

1903 08 11

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that another link with the fascinating past of Cambridge is being severed by the almost entire demolition of the one-time famous ‘Falcon Inn’. Many years ago the front of the building, with its fine old gables facing Petty Cury, disappeared and about eight years ago the buildings on the left side of the Falcon Yard were demolished to make way for business extensions. Now the rooms on the right side are in process of demolition for extra accommodation for the Lion Hotel. The back part possessing a small specimen of the open gallery remains

1903 08 12

Sir – the alarm about the old Falcon Inn, Petty Cury, being demolished unrecorded seems to me unnecessary. Certainly within the last 40 years I have sent out almost as many drawings of it, to say nothing of the etchings. It, with the old Wrestlers Inn, has been a small gold mine to me. One noticeable thing I might mention: it was the last inn to hang out a flag as a sign that the recruiting sergeant was at home – Robert Farren

1903 12 23

Cambridge architect Edwin Bays has produced a plan for a new 60 feet-wide road from Downing Street to Guildhall Street, parallel to Corn Exchange Street. This would create valuable frontages for business premises on either side and lead to a site for a new Cambridgeshire County Hall. There would be a fountain to take off the nakedness of the wide entrance at St Andrew’s Hill, replacing the old Corn Exchange. It would relieve the congested traffic in the narrow Petty Cury and provide a direct access to the chief colleges

1904 01 02

The Eastern Vacuum Cleaning Company has cleaned two of the large rooms, the coffee room and the commercial room, of the Lion Hotel in Petty Cury, Cambridge and the result is remarkable. The carpets are rich, large carpets, so large in fact as to be almost unwieldy under the old method of beating, but under this system they have been cleaned in the most perfect manner and not a particle of dust can be found. Out of one carpet 28 lbs of dust and dirt was extracted and now the whole of the hotel is to be dealt with in similar manner

1905 05 02

An outbreak of fire occurred at the premises of Messrs Hallack and Bond, wholesale grocers, Petty Cury, Cambridge. About 11.18 pm smoke and flames were discovered issuing from a store room. The alarm was at once given and the horsed fire escape, tender and hose cart were soon on the scene. With the aid of one hydrant, the inmates of the building and the firemen succeeded in extinguishing the outbreak just in time to prevent a serious conflagration 05 05 02b

1905 08 26

Sir – I wish to protest against an act of vandalism. The fine sight of Cambridge from the corner of Petty Cury with the stalls, old fountain and University Church has been ruined by the erection of a lofty ‘stink pipe’ in the middle of the Market Place, cutting the east window of the church in half. Why could this not have been run up the side of the Guildhall where it would not have been such an eyesore? – Cantab. 05 08 26c

1906 01 13

When the election meeting at Newnham concluded the candidate’s carriage was drawn to the Conservative Club followed by a procession which included a couple of motor buses. Just as it reached Cambridge Market Hill a similar procession of demonstrating Liberals poured out of Petty Cury. These two bodies of citizens conceived an intense dislike for each other, shouting vigorously. A little later there was an exhibition of fisticuffs in Sidney Street 06 01 13

1906 01 16

The polling box from Norfolk Street was the last to arrive at Cambridge Guildhall and with it came the story of a tactful police inspector who had piloted the carriage containing some hundreds of votes through a Petty Cury crowded with excited partisans. Inside the ballot papers were counted and it became known that Mr Buckmaster was elected. Mr Paget, with the generosity of an English gentleman, shook his hand and congratulated him on the victory 06 10 16b

1906 03 03

Sir – for the past two Saturday afternoons a young Freshman has been disporting himself on a motor bicycle, making a circuit of the main thoroughfares of Cambridge, starting from Jesus Lane and ending at the Catholic Church, taking in Petty Cury and the Market Place. Being market-day the already too-congested streets are filled with many country folk, ladies and children, both on foot and on bicycles. He evidently likes to hear the sound of his hooter and the stench from his machine is disgusting. L.P.C. Macquaid. 06 03 03

1907 04 25

George Stace, draper and milliner of Petty Cury claimed payment from Charles Sugden, the well-known actor, for goods supplied to his wife in July 1903. It was custom to make out bills to the lady who had paid some money on account. Mr Sugden said he had been in America and not given her any authority to pledge his credit, she had her own income. But Elizabeth Thorpe, manageress in the mantle and gown department, remembered him coming into the shop with her. 07 04 25

1908 08 28

Great blocks of glittering, iridescent ice are manufactured on the site of the Falcon Inn, Petty Cury, every hot midsummer morning. Mr J.V. Pryor, the fish-monger has installed plant for this modern miracle and the shrill insistent note of the dynamo is joined by the plunk-plunk of the gas engine exhaust. Like the flying machine, the ice factory is at present only in its infancy and the plant is expensive but the method of manufacture is simplicity itself, taking 50 hours to produce slabs weighing two cwt apiece and makes more than Mr Pryor needs for his ordinary fish business. CEN 08 08 28 p3

1908 09 11

Petty Cury has been closed to vehicular traffic during the operation of replacing the Val de Travers cement that was removed to admit the underground telephone wires. This work by Italian workmen has been watched with much interest. The material in the form of steaming hot powder is placed on its concrete bed and rammed and levelled with hot irons. The rapidity with which the stuff hardens and becomes fit for use is quite remarkable. CWN 08 09 11 p5

1909 02 12

Ladies who study their figures will do well to inspect the new designs in corsets exhibited at the show rooms of Messrs W.K. Vawser and Son, Petty Cury. Specially designed corsets are prepared for the Empire and Directoire style of gowns. Ladies will be delighted to find just what they need among the lovely models of the French I.C. a la Persephone corsets which are suitable for the slender willowy figures. The Adjustment for stouter figures, needing greater support, is an ideal corset, price 17s.6d. (85p). 09 02 12

1909 03 19

Mr W.B. Redfern's unique collection of watercolour drawings of old Cambridge excited great interest. In 1875 he started to record places of bygone and antiquarian interest which but for his timely intervention would have been lost for ever. A good many had now entirely disappeared including two houses in Shelley Row which were the residence of Oliver Cromwell during the Civil War. They were panelled with two handsome fireplaces which he had moved to his own house. Old houses in Petty Cury were the most striking and perfect places which should never have been pulled down while parts of the Falcon Yard had remained until the last few years. 09 03 19

1910

1910 07 01

Licences for: Bassingbourn Beerhouse in the fen, Meldreth Green Man, Fulbourn Coach & Horses, Chesterton White Horse, Cottenham Boot, Fen Drayton Horse & Gate, Longstanton Red Cow, Milton Three Tuns, Shelford King William IV, Shudy Camps Chequers, Linton George & Dragon. Cambridge Star & Garter Petty Cury, Cardinal's Cap, Crown & Anchor, Borough Boys, Ship, Merry Boys, Prince Albert, Oxford – all refused. Melbourn White Lion & Swavesey Little Rose renewed 10 07 01 & a

1914 03 06

The London, City and Midland Bank opened a new branch in Petty Cury next door to the Head Post Office. The offices are handsomely fitted up; the counters and doors are of fumed oak and the electroliers and other fittings are of brass. The walls are panelled and the floor paved with tessellated marble. The exterior is finished in freestone with marble columns and the offices warmed by hot water radiators and lighted by electricity. 14 03 06a

1914 06 04

An alarming accident happened in Petty Cury. Outside Mr A.E. Nichol's shop at the corner of Guildhall Street there are large incandescent globes suspended. One of these globes, which was illuminated, suddenly collapsed and struck the pavement with an alarming crash. The street was crowded at the time and it was marvellous that no one was hurt. The globe fell at the feet of a bystander who luckily was not injured, though glass was scattered in all directions 14 06 04 p9

1916 09 27

Heroes – photos: Tyler, Whitehead, Kent, Watts, Chanter, Christmas, Northfield, Hines, Newman – 16 09 27a

Tribunal – includes: conscientious objectors; Palmer, hatter, Petty Cury; Stockbridge, antique dealer; Ellis Merry, mail contractor; University Library assistant in charge of periodicals and binding – still obtained from Germany - 16 09 27b

1917 12 26

Margarine Queues - The queues, which have been getting larger day by day in Petty Cury, assumed such alarming dimensions on Saturday that one person at least was injured and others fainted. Margarine was the chief commodity sought, a supply having been delayed the day before owing to the fog. The Borough Food Control Committee took commendable action to consider how best to relieve the situation. They suggested that traders should transfer their stocks of margarine to the Corn Exchange and sell it there, and the Committee would give them every facility; they also suggested the margarine should only be sold in 1lbs, or multiples of 1lb. Some was transferred and between 2 and 4 o'clock 1,000 transactions in margarine had taken place. The people were arranged in queues outside the hall. The margarine was put up in 1lb and 2 lb packages, the limit to each person being 2 lb. Everything went off without a hitch

1920

1920 03 03 Domestic Hazard of Petty Cury profiteered over wash-board – claim

1920 03 23

Property sales 56 years ago – no.1 Market Hill, Petty Cury including Boots site

1922 06 16

A labourer of 1, Derby-road, Cambridge, was summonsed for not having control over a horse attached to a cart in Petty Cury. P.C. Keeble said that the horse was left unattended for 20 minutes. The horse was later found at the end of Guildhall-street having apparently wandered there on its own. It was apparently making its way to the police court (Laughter). Defendant said he had been driving the animal for a number of years and had not had any trouble with it. He was fined 5s.

1924 08 06

A sturgeon which was caught in Hemingford Grey Mill pit was the subject of interest to a number of spectators at the MacFisheries depot in Petty Cury, Cambridge. It is understood to be the largest fish that has been caught in the locality for some years past. It weighed 185 lbs, was 8ft ½ inch in length, measured 38 inches round the girth and was 19 inches across the tail. It is though the fish reached so high up the river owing to the recent floods. The tail, fins and certain parts of the intestines were removed to the Zoological Laboratories and portions of the flesh and skin will be returned to Hemingford Grey

1925 01 19

Petty Cury and Market Street, Cambridge, today commenced their career as one-way streets with the object of relieving congestion in these streets whose narrowness has ever been the subject of discussion. Petty Cury will only be used for vehicular traffic towards Market Hill. At present these regulations do not apply to bicycles. A policeman agreed that someone was bound to make a mistake – “It wouldn’t be Cambridge if they didn’t”, he said

1925 02 06

Cambridge council considered the application of Mr J. Sanders of Petty Cury, seedsman, for a licence to sell certain poisonous weed-destroyers, vaporising compounds and insecticides. It had been said they must not allow seedsmen to sell these compounds because people might buy poisons in order to kill their wives. (Laughter). It was not much good buying them from a chemist unless he had expert knowledge of gardening, whereas a seedsman could advise on their best use in the garden. The licence was granted

1925 06 20

The “one-way” traffic system in Petty Cury, Cambridge, has now been in force for so long that most people have come to regard it as a settled thing, but the regulation has to be formally approved by the Minister of Transport. The only criticism is that ordinary bicycles should be included in the term “vehicular traffic” but the Chief Constable takes the view that to prevent these riding both ways as at present would cause more trouble than the change would be worth.

1925 07 07

The Ministry of Transport inquiry into the one-way vehicular traffic scheme in Petty Cury & Market Street, Cambridge, was held in the Guildhall. There was a very small attendance. Cambridge suffered, in common with other old towns, from the traffic problem. There had always been a great deal of traffic in these streets and the congestion was very serious. Both streets were used by motor buses. There were no objections but a great body of people wanted the regulation to cover bicycles as well as other vehicles.

1925 12 01

Sir – The scenes on Sunday night in Petty Cury & Market Hill, Cambridge are disgraceful. Low hobbydehop youths and flat-chested flappers congregate and parade, whistling and shouting after each other and using language that would shame Billingsgate. Surely the police can put an end to such disgraceful proceedings – A.E.C.

1925 12 05 c

Sir – I must thank ‘One of the flat-chested flappers’ for corroborating my remarks as to the disgraceful conduct of the motley mob to be found in Petty Cury on Sunday nights. I should not advise anyone, particularly a young lady, in search of fresh air, to visit the Cury then, for the atmosphere is ‘too blue’ to be healthy, and reeks of cheap cigarette smoking, indulged in by ill-bred youths and flappers alike – A.E.C.

1926 10 09

Strawberries in October! Such a sight in the front window of Sambridge’s in Petty Cury, Cambridge, promoted a CDN representative to ask some questions. They were grown within 15 miles of Cambridge on one of Messrs Chivers’ farms and were picked that morning. In the future we may get English strawberries all the year round. Experiments are being carried on all over the country. And the strawberry season is reckoned to close in the middle of July! Life is full of wonders and disappointments!

1927 06 09

Cambridge Undergraduates took upon themselves the duty of opening “Joanna Southcott’s” famous box on the Market Hill. A crowd of mammoth proportions assembled. A melancholy dirge was heard from Petty Cury and there appeared a party of pipers and following them in one of Dale’s lorries came a weird array of 24 “bishops” and a delegation of “Mormons” wearing huge straw sombreros. One “archbishop” proceeded to open the box, producing several layers of red tape, a teddy bear, a pair of old football boots and a number of bananas with which he pelted the crowd. The “rag” was organised to provide funds for the Cambridge Fruiting Campaign to help strawberry pickers in the Wisbech area.

1927 11 17

Described as one of the finest shop sites in Cambridge, no.3 Petty Cury was offered for sale by auction. The shop, now in the occupation of Mrs Kemp as a toy and fancy warehouse, was offered with vacant possession and is freehold. The auctioneer mentioned the tremendous difference that would be made to the Market Square end of Petty Cury by the opening up of a big new shop at the corner. Bidding quickly rose to £7,350 but did not reach the reserve price and was withdrawn. Immediately after the auction it was sold privately.

1927 12 17

Cambridge Conservatives who, following the disastrous fire in Market Passage in November last year, have been accommodated in temporary club premises in Petty Cury, returned to the splendid new club which Phoenix-like has risen from the ashes of the old premises. As before there is a fine lounge billiard room with four tables on the top floor, and a fine lounge and smokeroom with secretary’s office and card room adjoining. Two new rooms will be used as a reading and writing room and a

committee room. The colour scheme is brown and buff. The ground floor is not yet complete but will consist of a large hall with a spring dance

1928 10 23

What is probably the largest single deal in Cambridge business property ever known has just been completed. A well-known local young man has purchased property with frontages in Market Hill, Petty Cury and Sidney Street and this will be developed by a company consisting of Cambridge people. It includes premises occupied by the Craft Shoe Company, the Cambridge Chronicle offices and printing works and Boots the chemist. As Messrs Boots recently secured a large amount of property in Petty Cury and Sidney Street it would appear that big changes will be seen in this part of town when both sites are developed.

1928 10 27

There is much speculation regarding the £42,000 Cambridge Market Hill deal; a large cinema and café are spoken of, but there are no details at present. It would be for the benefit of the town if the whole island site could be taken over by the Corporation; then as the leases run out it could be cleared and would provide a magnificent site for municipal buildings. Road traffic now demands that all building operations should be planned for what will be needed in the future, with a wider Petty Cury, Market Hill and Sidney Street. Something of the sort must eventually be done unless it is the intention to remove the Guildhall and market nearer the station.

1929 10 19

With the passing of Mrs Eliza Jane Mason of the Livingstone Hotel, Petty Cury, Cambridge has lost a prominent member of the restaurant business. She commenced business with a university lodging house on Market Hill which became known as 'Masons' and was converted into a restaurant. It was largely used by cadets and catered for the officers stationed here during the Great War. Almost the first Belgian wounded soldiers were billeted there and she acted as a sort of nursing mother to them. Her next move was to Sadd's before she bought the Livingstone Hotel which was then only a coffee house. It is now one of the best commercial hotels in Cambridge. She also built the Rendezvous, Magrath Avenue as a skating rink in 1909.

1929 11 06

Nearly thirty arrests were made during a Guy Fawkes 'Rag' on Cambridge Market Hill. Early in the evening an attempt was made to light a bonfire in Petty Cury and there was a considerable blaze in front of Falcon Yard before the police noticed it and it was extinguished. In Rose Crescent an effigy was soaked with petrol, stuffed with fireworks and deposited near the Market Hill end. This was quickly extinguished and the effigy confiscated, but the petrol continued to burn for a long time afterwards. A new feature of the scrimmages was the use of police whistles by undergraduates which added to the confusion.

1929 12 02

An interesting improvement scheme will shortly be undertaken in Petty Cury and Sidney Street. Messrs Boots the Chemist have acquired extensive property with a view to re-housing their old establishment which has grown during some 30 years. Now the time is ripe to erect an emporium to provide an attractive shopping centre for patrons of all classes. The architect is Mr Percy J. Bartlett of Nottingham and his primary consideration is an external appearance that will harmonise with Cambridge's noble architectural traditions and raise the standard of commercial architecture. Building operations will commence early in the New Year

1929 12 05

Heffer's wonderful new shop in Petty Cury, Cambridge, is a book lovers' paradise. In the basement are 'remainders' at reduced prices while the ground floor is devoted to the latest publications and an extensive foreign literature section. A wide range of second-hand volumes occupies most of the first floor where connoisseurs of original editions will find much to interest them at prices from £5 to £250. On the second floor are oriental, foreign travel and fine art books while higher still are Heffer's

own publications, many of local interest. There is a special reference department and out-of-print books service. The front design successfully combines an old-world impression with a modern style.

1930

1930 01 15

From modest beginnings in Fitzroy Street the history of the House of Heffer is one of continuous progress. The Printing Works on Hills Road has been considerably enlarged, last year saw reconstruction of the Petty Cury Bookshop which is now twice its original size, and this year sees the reconstruction of the Sidney Street Stationery and Art Shop. It will be a shop worthy of its central position. The new premises will have five floors, the frontage will be in the Georgian style with pilasters, fascia and columns of grey polished granite and the upper part will be faced with red Flemish bricks with Weldon stone dressings to the windows. A unique feature will be the Picture Gallery on the third floor with a barrel-shaped ceiling

1930 03 08b

Petty Cury demolition, p8*

1930 03 22

There never was a time surely when there were so many works of destruction going on as at present. Little bits of old Cambridge are going one by one and elaborate new buildings are rising up in their place. Following demolition in Petty Cury and Sidney Street now we see old houses and shops in Sussex Street being knocked down. No wonder that those who come back to the town after a few years' absence express amazement at the changes they see. When we think of the bridges built at Newnham and Chesterton, of the streets that have been widened, the new recreation ground opened and the great business changes effected in the heart of the town we may well gasp. 30 03 22 a & b

1931 12 25

Cambridge Rabbits' Cricket Club, formerly Heals, held their annual dinner at the Corner House Café, Petty Cury. They had enjoyed a most successful season and were thoroughly established and well-known. Mr D. Burton further showed his generosity by offering to present yet another cup for the most outstanding bowling performance of the season. His cup for the most outstanding performance went to Mr R.P. Fuller. 31 12 25d

1932 03 01

P.C. Woolf stated that while on duty in Petty Cury he saw some water thrown from a first-floor window of the Lion Hotel. He visited room 36 where he noted the curtains were soaking wet. The defendant said he had been spending the evening with his friends who had been drinking whiskies and sodas. Being a teetotaler himself, but not wishing to offend them, he had thrown his drinks out of the window. He was fined £1. 32 03 01

1932 10 28

John Yeomans came to Cambridge at the age of 19 in 1857 and purchased the shop at the corner of Petty Cury and Sidney Street from Mr Lyons where he carried on business as a chemist for 40 years. He had a vivid recollection of events: he knew George Stephenson personally and was a passenger in the first railway engine to run in England. 32 10 28e

1933 11 17

Joel Smart was the son of a Gloucestershire cloth manufacturer. Coming to Cambridge shortly after the battle of Waterloo he commenced business at 59 Bridge Street in 1826, removing in 1840 to Petty Cury and in 1853 to 11 Market Street. Here he purchased the clothing business of Watson Taylor who had been trading from early in the century. He took his son, Charles, into partnership, in whose family the business still remains. Such is the history of one of the oldest firms in Cambridge where customers will find all the latest materials and the most fashionable styles at keen prices. 33 11 17

1934 02 15

A blindfolded motorist drove through Cambridge at the height of the rush hour as people made their way home to lunch. Professor Popjie's claims that he has 'second sight' enabling him to sense anything in the way was tested when a pedal-propelled invalid chair caused him to slow somewhat abruptly. He threaded his way through traffic down Petty Cury, round the Market and back to the New Theatre where he is appearing with his electrical figure 'Radiana'. 34 02 15

1934 08 02

Councillors considered a scheme for compulsorily purchasing the old Post Office on the corner of Petty Cury and other properties in Sidney Street to widen the road. Cambridge could not progress unless it spent money. Money was never cheaper: the banks were bursting with it. There were the materials, the men and the money available for the work. But having compulsory orders hanging over the properties would influence the price they could be sold for. 34 08 02

1934 09 21

Messrs George Stace's new windows in his Petty Cury Arcade are absolutely the latest idea. They curve inwards to reduce reflections making the glass invisible. Spotlights inside, which can be given any colour, provide the perfect finish and one feels one has only to reach out and touch the articles. Showrooms upstairs have been reconstructed and one of the workrooms moved to make space room for the new arcade. 34 09 21

1935 04 10

Corporation proposals for the widening and improvement of Sidney Street and the lower part of Petty Cury met with vigorous opposition. In 1922 they had taken powers to prescribe frontage lines and in 1924 when Messrs Woolworth's and Sainsbury's came to Cambridge they agreed to set back their premises and gave the land to the Council. Various other places were reconstructed and now the frontage line had been prescribed from Sainsbury's to Millers with the exception of Almond's and the Prudential Assurance Company. The Surveyor said the street was urgently in need of widening to cope with increased traffic. The Livingstone Hotel had been carried on in Sidney Street for 30 years. Under street widening proposals they would be left with the second, third and fourth floors which they could not get at all. It was used by travellers who could not afford more expensive hotels. 35 04 10 & a, 35 04 11

1935 07 27

Belisha Beacons have now been installed in Cambridge, whether we like them or not. They are on Market Street corner near Sainsbury's, between Christ's College and St Andrew's church, near the Midland Bank in Petty Cury, the 'Jolly Waterman' on Victoria Avenue and between Christ's Pieces and New Square. It is just as well the undergraduates are not here to see their erection. Perhaps we shall all have become thoroughly accustomed to them where our young friends come up. 35 07 27b

1935 12 17

If you are hard up for ideas for gifts, visit Samuels in Petty Cury. The manager produced an Everite 'King' watch and threw it on the floor. It did not hurt it – a similar watch was dropped from the top of Big Ben and was still going when picked up. Diamond rings are available at prices up to forty shillings and the latest for a lady's handbag is a combined flap-jack and cigarette-lighter. Canteens of cutlery, eminently suitable for wedding presents, are priced from fifteen shillings (75p). 35 12 17a

1936 01 18

As the Guildhall is being reconstructed the Cambridge Education Committee met in the old Post Office on the corner of Petty Cury. The large hall on the ground floor where the public business of the Post Office used to be transacted has been cleared of the counters, screens and telephone boxes and converted into a committee room. Unfortunately the CDN reporters found the acoustic properties very bad. It is never easy to follow the remarks of some of the members of the Committee and hearing was rendered doubly difficult by the roar of traffic outside. They dragged their table nearer but even then the noise of the traffic was an easy winner. 36 01 18

1936 02 04

Mrs A.A. Moyes' charming, pleasant nature was well-known to countless visitors to the Lion Hotel in Petty Cury hotel. Her memory was outstanding: many commercial travellers recall how she could take up a conversation practically where it had been left off, even after many months. Undergraduates had the greatest respect: even during the liveliest of moments she was able to quell impending trouble without outside assistance. She had the present glass roof put above the former courtyard, which was used for traffic up to 1907. Now the family have severed their links with the hotel after over 80 years. 36 02 04c

1936 03 28

Under new restrictions Cambridge motorists may not travel from Market Hill towards Trinity Street or into Bene't Street from King's Parade. You may not drive into Sussex Street from Hobson Street or into Corn Exchange Street from Downing Street, nor turn at Burton's Corner, Petty Cury to go to the Victoria Cinema or from Wheeler Street into Peas Hill to get to the Arts Theatre. But cyclists may walk with their bicycles either way as they do at present in Petty Cury and Market Street. Restaurants will have to speed up their service if they wish to cater for those who leave their cars outside, for only a quarter of an hour is permitted. Travellers who do not want to get indigestion had better make use of a parking space! 36 03 28b

1937 10 19

The Mayor opened a model anti-gas room at Boot's shop in Petty Cury. With the disturbed state of international politics the company was anxious to help people to retain a sense of proportion concerning air raids. Any room could be made gasproof at a trifling cost. It had been tested under the most severe conditions with war gas. The Home Office Air Raids Precautions Department welcomed the initiative. If people took the simple precautions suggested they would be able to deal with the emergency quite successfully. 37 10 19b

1938 03 05

Part of Sidney Street was closed to traffic following the development of a bulge in the front wall of the premises of Austin & Co., coal merchants. The bulge is sufficiently marked to be easily visible. Last night crowds gathered in the expectation that the wall might fall, but they were disappointed. In shops on either side it was a case as 'business as usual'. Traffic has been diverted via Petty Cury and St John's Street while builders work on the affected wall 38 03 05 & a

1938 10 21

A.R. Nichols and Son, butchers on the corner of Petty Cury and Guildhall Street notify customers that owing to building reconstruction in Petty Cury they are temporarily carrying on their business at their East Road shop and also at a stall on Market Hill 38 10 21

1939 02 23

No.7 Petty Cury, comprising a double-fronted shop in the occupation of Messrs Lipton, the upper floors providing part of the bedroom accommodation of the Lion Hotel was offered for sale by auction. Shop property in the heart of the shopping centre of Cambridge seldom came to market by public auction and formed an excellent purchase for occupation, speculation or investment. It would be very difficult to find a much better investment. Demand was especially keen in Cambridge where the best shopping area was limited owing the centre being 'horseshoed' by college buildings. But it failed to reach its reserve and was withdrawn at £11,750 (about £650,000 today) 39 02 23a

1939 04 21

The Victoria Friendly Institution was inaugurated at a meeting at the Wrestlers Inn, Petty Cury in 1837 and the foundation stone of the old building laid in 1841. A programme and a number of coins were also placed in a bottle. But there is no trace of them. Now six houses have been erected to mark their centenary, providing happiness for those fortunate enough to be elected tenants. It was a great satisfaction to know there were such places in which people could spend the eventide of life 39 04 21

1940

1940 01 27

Margarine queue in Petty Cury, photo taken Jan 28 1918 – 40 01 27d

1942 12 21

Baby girl abandoned at Corner House Café, Petty Cury – 42 12 21

1943 10 09

Club for transferred war workers to be established at 8-9 Petty Cury to provide canteen and recreational accommodation for men and women, including washing and ironing facilities. Will be open 10am-10pm; an attractive meeting and resting place for workers who have come from away – 43 10 09

1943 10 29

Duchess Visits Hospital — An addition to the programme arranged for the Duchess of Kent's visit to Cambridge on Tuesday afternoon was a call at the American Red Cross hostel at the Bull Hotel. Earlier, after visits to Addenbrooke's Hospital and The Leys Annexe, the Duchess had tea with workers in their canteen at the new Falcon Club in Petty Cury. Her Royal Highness chatted with hospital patients, workers and American soldiers at the U.S. hostel in the course of her tour. She was accompanied by Lady Rachel Davidson. During the Duchess's visit to the children's wards at Addenbrooke's the behaviour of the little ones was exemplary.

1945 07 20

Old Post Office had been purchased about 1937 to give council control of improvements to the corner of Petty Cury; would have to be set back; might make ideal site for new library – 45 07 20a

1945 11 10

Council to buy Petty Cury properties adjoining old Post Office – 45 11 10

1947 07 30

Sir - When will something be done about the disgraceful state of the traffic in Petty Cury, Cambridge. I understood some time ago that steps were being taken to stop the parking of cars on the left side of this narrow thoroughfare. Far from this being done, it is now worse than ever. Saturday, with the exception of the entrance to the Lion Hotel there were 15 large cars parked from Sidney Street to Guildhall Street, and as prams and mail carts can only use the sidewalks, pedestrians who venture on the street are taking serious risks of getting knocked down. Truly a street only fit for the quick or the dead - letter from W.M.F., Gt Shelford

1947 10 01

The Chief Constable (B.N. Bebbington) told Cambridge Rotary Club that he would like to see a scheme whereby traffic was banned - at least buses and heavy traffic - in the centre of Cambridge. "In Petty Cury on Saturdays there is insufficient room for traffic, let alone pedestrians. It would be more satisfactory if that central part of the town was for pedestrian traffic only. That is a sweeping thing to say and will not find favour in all quarters". Referring to criticism that the one-way traffic scheme soon to be introduced in the centre of town was "the wrong way round" he explained that it diverted from the town centre the large amount of traffic going to the station from the Chesterton direction and would encourage lorry drivers passing through Cambridge to take the route through the Backs. More car parks in the centre of the town were obviously a need, and there were plans in existence to provide them

1947 10 02

New premises, a new name and new services for Cambridge's British restaurant were marked by the attendance of the Mayor at an informal opening ceremony. The new premises are in the old G.P.O.

building at the corner of Petty Cury. The new name is the Cambridge Borough restaurant, and the new services are a more varied lunch menu instead of the old "flat rate". The cafeteria system of serving is being introduced, by which you slide a tray along choosing your dish and pay when you have completed your selection. First to eat in the new premises were the workmen employed on the job who were entertained to lunch with a typical menu of cream of vegetable soup, roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, baked and boiled potatoes and cabbage, blackberry and apple tart and custard

1948 06 04 c

Sir - the one-way system has certainly created danger spots at the corner of St John's Street, Cambridge. They could be remedied by putting traffic lights there back into operation. The only alternative would be to divert all traffic into Petty Cury. Every user of Petty Cury will have to agree that it is already far too narrow even for the present volume of traffic - pedestrians are crowded into the roadway and bus drivers often have their work cut out to squeeze their buses through at walking pace. Short of some more radical plan (e.g. banning all motor traffic from the streets round Market Hill) I think the one-way system is as good as we shall get - A.E.B. Owen

1948 08 21

In one of Cambridge's worst danger spots, the closely-packed buildings of Petty Cury, the most serious fire the town has seen for two years broke out, damaging half of the stock of Messrs Montagu Burton, tailors. Firemen prevented the fire from spreading to adjoining shops but the whole of Burton's premises were gutted. Next door is Hutton's tailors where suits, coats and other clothing was covered by dust sheets to prevent damage from fumes. Burton's manager said "I went down in the cellar and saw the gas meter on fire and it was just like a giant blow lamp. We salvaged about half the stock". He added "I was flooded out at Jaywick a fortnight ago, and now ..."

1948 11 26

For the first time anywhere in the world, a new series of television was used to promote road safety at Cambridge. Traffic scenes on Market Hill were televised to the Accident Prevention Exhibition in the Corn Exchange. "Closed-circuit" as it is called is the latest development of the Cambridge firm of Pye Ltd. Two cameras were operated, one fixed to the balcony of the Guildhall and the other on top of a van at the corner of Petty Cury. Along this narrow, one-way street, between 8am and 6pm approximately 7,000 bicycles and 2,000 other vehicles pass each weekday. The slow speed of the traffic and its one-way direction helps to keep the accident rate down

1949 01 05

Several Cambridge shops have their January sales in full swing. Messrs W. Eaden Lilley, Market Street, find that the possibility of the ending of clothes rationing is having a psychological effect. "People are inclined to be a bit rash with their coupons and the half-price, half-price coupon goods are going well". Messrs G. Stace, Petty Cury, have cleared some of their Old Look stock and a number of suits have been sold at a quarter of their price - £20 coats at £4.19s.6d. It was pointed out that the "shorter lady" scores, as some of the old length garments look new length on her

1949 09 06

Sir - None of our streets in Cambridge is wide enough to allow vehicles to be parked all down one side, as they do now. Petty Cury, on a Saturday especially, is almost a death-trap. The pavements are not wide enough for people to walk more than two abreast; therefore they walk on the road, thus giving bus drivers in particular a nightmare. This could be relieved to a certain extent if there were no vehicles parked all down one side. I suggest a big improvement would be the abolishing of all street parking and a municipal car park made on Midsummer common - Frederick Prior

1950

1950 11 25

A police cordon was thrown around central Cambridge following the setting off of the burglar alarm at H. Samuel's jeweller's shop in Petty Cury. The thief cut a hole through the ceiling of the arcade

leading to the shop, broke the fanlight over the main door of the shop and climbed through. He made his escape over the roofs. Some articles stolen were taken from a showcase just inside the grille. Though price tickets on empty spaces showed that watches worth £10 had been stolen, one worth £21 had been overlooked

1951 03 08

An appeal against refusal of permission for Messrs. Maudes caterers of 25 Petty Cury, Cambridge, to erect a neon sign has been dismissed. The appeal related to the display of a vertical neon sign above fascia level on the front elevation of a dignified building. The Minister considers that notwithstanding the commercial character of the locality, the sign is out of keeping with the buildings of architectural and historical interest in the vicinity

1951 05 25

Petty Cury property sold, p7

1951 07 02

The announcement of the closing down of Messrs George Stace Ltd's Petty Cury store marks the closing of yet one more old-established firm that has filled a special niche in the local fashion trade for many years. The name had come to stand for a good, solid, middle class trade. It was not necessarily a smart one, but it met the needs of a definite section of the community. It catered for the matron, and for the essentially well-to-do family of both town and county

1952 10 03

Changed Cambridge – Petty Cury, p7

1954 01 20

Cambridge planners are contemplating the rebuilding of premises in Sidney Street to complete the road widening between Petty Cury and Holy Trinity Church. In 1939 the Essex Insurance Company agreed to rebuild nos 62-64 Sidney Street but owing to the war the scheme was postponed. Then in 1943 they sold no.64 to Messrs Boots who are now seeking planning permission for change of use and this is an opportune time for the scheme to go ahead.

1954 11 27

Cambridge assize courts should be moved to the City Library site at the Guildhall, councillors suggested. There might be some overcrowding on the first day of the Assize when all the prisoners, witnesses and jurymen in all cases had to be present or if there was a case that attracted particular public interest. But there would be a substantial saving in capital expenditure. For some time they had wished to provide new premises for the library as the Central Lending Library and Reading Rooms were no longer adequate; before the war there had been proposals to move it to the old Post Office building in Petty Cury

1955 03 05

Sir - While surveying the exterior of premises over the Mac Fisheries in Petty Cury, Cambridge, I observed a row of iron spikes attached to the fascia board of the guttering. I presume they were fixed for the purpose of breaking up the large banks of snow leaving the roof and ensuring a more 'equitable distribution' on pedestrians using the pavement below. Such fittings must be something of a rarity – perhaps more observant readers can mention other buildings still retaining these spikes and enlighten me on their history – D.W. Overhill. 55 03 05

1956 03 02

Plain-clothes men filtered among the packed crowd which had gone to the Lion Hotel, Petty Cury, to hear the boss of Britain's Fascists, Sir Oswald Mosley. But the atmosphere was very different from when he came two years ago. Then it was trouble all the way. This time there were more cheers than jeers. He argued that armed war was now impossible due to the H-bomb. 56 03 02

1956 12 01

Henekeys of Alexandra Street, Petty Cury give one shilling in the pound discount on three bottles of wines and spirits during December. A selection of prices: H.R.H. White Seal whisky 34/- (£1.70), Cognac 41/- (£2.05), Amontillado sherry 18/6 (92p), Liebraumilch Superior hock 10/10 (54p) and Veuve Grenier champagne 21/- (£1.05). 56 12 01a

1957 07 12

Lamp standard replaced by traffic bollards at corner Petty Cury – photo – 57 07 12

1959 01 13

Seven schemes are being considered for the Lion Yard area. It is felt essential for the financial success of the proposals that the redevelopment should embrace the existing property on the south side of Petty Cury from the Post Office to the Lion Hotel. It should extend over the existing car park to Downing Street and be linked with Emmanuel Street. The University are interested in obtaining access to the New Museums buildings on the west side of Corn Exchange Street, but this may not be practical. 59 01 13a & b

See separate section for more details on Lion Yard Redevelopment Proposals

1959 11 11

The proposed Lion Yard scheme provided for a pedestrians-only shopping precinct linked to Petty Cury, office space (to be offered to the University if needed), a new Emmanuel Road, the widening of Corn Exchange Street and an underground car park including space for 750 cars of which 230 would be for office staff. There would also be a new telephone exchange, an Inquiry was told. The scheme would be completed by 1965. 59 11 11c & d & e

1959 12 03

The Inquiry into the Lion Yard scheme was told that the Petty Cury frontage should be excluded from redevelopment: the present useful buildings would be preserved and the character of the street maintained. But Planners said they could not be adequately served as they lacked any rear access. Runciman's veterinary premises in Downing Street had been used for 150 years and were specially designed for the purpose. They have dealt with animals as small as a mouse and as large as an elephant. The proposed replacement buildings were incompatible with the character of Cambridge. 59 12 03 & a & 04 & 04a

1960's The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960

1960 01 16

So Cambridge must be destroyed. Country folk from the surrounding pastures have decreed that, just because she develops a bald patch on her Lion Yard. But even when Petty Cury has been rebuilt with modern materials the day must come when all the new buildings fall down. But by 2020 there will be no cars, and therefore no parking problems; only the original debt. No one can possibly question the integrity of the City Fathers: by their very selection they are men apart, towering above their fellows in mental and moral stature – C.R. Benstead feature 60 01 16

1960 09 07

The widening of the Market Street – Petty Cury area of Sidney Street will complement the part that was completed before the war when the Boots and Trueform buildings were erected. Some people feel that the road nearer Jesus Lane is a greater priority but the widened section by the two bus stops outside Holy Trinity will relieve traffic congestion. There is no intention of completing the process right through to Bridge Street says T.V. Burrows, the City Surveyor. 60 09 07

1961 02 11

The delay in Lion Yard redevelopment has meant that the Civic Restaurant on the corner of Petty Cury has been given a new lease of life. The dining hall has been brightened up and the provision of window curtains will give a finishing touch. A cosmopolitan note has been struck in an announcement over the scullery in English, French, German and Italian exhorting customers to return their plates 61 02 11

1961 04 14

Cambridge Civic Restaurant produces over 1,000 meals a day either for consumption in its spacious contemporary dining room or for the Drummer Street Mobile Canteen or W.V.S. Meals-on-Wheels service. The premises at the Old Post Office in Petty Cury may have to be demolished as part of the Lion Yard scheme but the Manageress, Mrs Gillett and her staff of 30, including Mrs E. Stubbings who has been vegetable cook for the last 18 years have become very attached to the restaurant and regard their customers as 'one big family' which needs feeding. 61 04 14b

1961 07 01

The Roe family has been well known in Cambridge since Joseph Roe started in the antiques trade in Petty Cury in 1826. Now one more facet of the old times will disappear with the demolition of their shop on the corner of Christ's Lane and St Andrew's Street. It has been in existence since 1882, having been rebuilt in 1897. New buildings will rise on the site in keeping with the contemporary Bradwell's Court. The business has relocated to Downing Street where it will be continued by Owen Roe. 61 07 01a

1961 07 03

Stanley Rose's old-established butchers is one of the few properties in Petty Cury remaining in private hands. He acquired the premises in the early 1930s, moving from a site in Market Hill which was then being demolished for make way for the new Guildhall where the family firm had been established for three generations. He is now retiring and the business will be transferred to W.J. Adkins, the local firm of butchers. The premises have been acquired by Messrs Peter Lord, the shoe specialists. 61 07 03d

1962 05 07

Mr Jack Cotton and Mr Charles Clore, the property millionaires, have bought the site of Heffer's from Emmanuel College on the understanding that the bookshop will be rehoused in any new redevelopment of Petty Cury. Their company, City Centre Properties, acquired the adjoining Lion Hotel site last year. The Director of Dolamore, the wine merchants, who hold the freehold of most of the corner with Guildhall Street, would not say whether they had also approached them. Recently this part of Petty Cury was included in the area scheduled for redevelopment. The firm also have an interest in the New Theatre site which is now being demolished to be replaced by a block of offices 62 05 07

1962 05 10

The clean-cut façade of the offices of Messrs Ellison & Co. show up well at the end of the little court in the passageway between the Lion Hotel and Heffer's bookshop in Petty Cury. The offices were acquired by the Clore-Cotton Group's City Centre Properties when they bought the premises occupied by Heffer's and the freehold of that part of the Lion Hotel formerly held on lease from Emmanuel College. The area is scheduled for redevelopment as part of the Lion Yard scheme. 62 05 10a

1962 06 01

Thieves last night cleared almost the whole stock of lightweight coats, suits and cocktail dresses from the upstairs showroom of Hutton, the women's outfitters in Petty Cury. Only clothes in the showroom window were untouched. Evening dresses were left heaped on the floor and bridal gowns left on their hangers, indicating that the thieves were disturbed. Police say the raiders carried bundles of dresses to a van parked in the narrow Alexandra Street near the shop. 62 06 01

1962 09 25

Bus wedged between parked lorries and scaffolding in Petty Cury – 62 09 25

1963 02 09

Afternoon shoppers in one of Cambridge's busiest streets scattered when a large piece of masonry fell from the top of a three storey building on to the pavement. Petty Cury was sealed off for an hour after an ornamental stone flower pot fell from the top of the building containing John Collier's outfitters shop and a Chinese restaurant. Fireman with a turntable escape ladder inspected another stone pot; it had hairline cracks but was left in position. 63 02 09b – photo 63 02 13

1963 12 09

Police will meet representatives of all businesses in Petty Cury to try to persuade them to stop deliveries by lorries to their premises during peak traffic hours. All loading and unloading could be banned between 9am and 6pm. It was an offence for vehicles to park on the pavement when serving shops and inconvenienced pedestrians. But police often used their discretion as otherwise congestion in the narrow streets would be chronic. 63 12 09

1964 01 01

Cambridge's chief constable has suggested city centre traders might equip their vehicles with radio telephones to ensure they arrive at convenient times for loading and unloading. Other suggestions include avoiding excessively large vehicles and depots for breaking down loads. It would help to alleviate the problems of loading and unloading vehicles in Petty Cury between 8 and 9.30 am and noon till two o'clock 64 01 01

1964 09 18

Liberals call for traffic-free Petty Cury – 64 09 18b

1964 10 22

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on Petty Cury – 64 10 22

1968 11 25

Trinity College start new accommodation block on site of Matthews in Sidney Street releasing land in Petty Cury for Lion Yard – 68 11 25

1969 02 13

W. Heffer & sons open new children's bookshop in Trinity Street, plan to move main shop from Petty Cury – 69 02 13

1969 06 18

Petty Cury flower seller loses pitch with demolition of Lion Hotel, is built replacement site – 69 06 18
J. Lyons & Co sign Petty Cury to change – photo – 69 07 01a

1970

1970 12 08

Fire True Form shoe shop, Petty Cury was caused by candles used during electricity cuts – 70 12 08

1972 02 01

Councillor Gough-Goodman dines in Petty Cury as no entry experiment starts – 72 02 01, 01a1972 02 29

1972 02 29

Petty Cury reopens after experiment week of closure, firms concerned about delivery problems – 72 02 29

1972 03 18

Cambridge voted a big Yes to the permanent closure of Petty Cury in a survey. The results published today show that 92.1 per cent agreed that the closure had added to the convenience of shoppers. There was also overwhelming feeling that the experiment should be tried on other roads. The most common comment was "Close the whole Market Square to traffic"

1972 03 23

Petty Cury trial ban backed, p1

1972 06 05

Petty Cury, Cambridge, was closed to all vehicle traffic today and handed back to pedestrians for the second time this year. It is likely to stay closed to traffic for at least two years and perhaps permanently. The same city centre street was closed to traffic for a month's experiment in February which was rated highly successful. The whole of the southern side of Petty Cury will be demolished in the next three months and a new central library will appear within the next three years

1972 06 27

Although the war ended 27 years ago the little patch of Cambridge around Alexandra Street has a distinct 1940s look. In common with all the little alleyways off Petty Cury, Alexandra Street is in the throes of the Lion Yard re-development scheme. The old is being swept away by the demolition gangs to make way for the new and soon the whole face of the area will begin to change. The first phase of the project - the multi-storey car park - is due to open at the end of next week. Work on the second stage - the demolition of the southern side of Petty Cury and the building of shops and service roads on the Lion Yard - is already under way and is expected to take about two years. The third stage - the building of a large central library - will start soon after this, p17

1972 09 08

Verdict on Petty Cury, p18

1972 10 05

The bulldozers and demolition gangs may have ruined the character of Petty Cury and destroyed Falcon Yard forever, but for those who appreciate the past two crumbs of comfort: Fisher House was saved. Reprieve too for Ramsey and Muspratt, the photographers in Post Office Terrace, where silver bitch trees have sprouted in the old courtyard behind the studio. There have been photographers in Post Office Terrace since the 1860s. Lettice Ramsey and Helen Muspratt took over from Palmer Clark in 1933. "We took over the whole thing, lock, stock and barrel, with about 50,000 old negatives. We have been here ever since", said Mrs Ramsey, competing with the noise of a pneumatic drill. Now she and her women assistants battle through the noise and dust every day to maintain a "business as normal" service

1973 02 05

Cambridge's longest slogan - all 60 yards of it - spanning the Lion Yard hoarding along Petty Cury is likely to remain for some time. The slogan, which advertises the Cambridge Claimants' Union, exceeds even the anti-Vietnam banner erected on King's College chapel some years ago. The foot-high, spray-painted slogan proclaiming: "Fight for the right to live with Claimants Union, the union for all unemployed unsupported mothers, low paid supplementary pensioners, sick people" seems set to stay

1974 03 14

Lyons restaurant in Cambridge city centre is to close at the end of the week. It opened first as a tea shop just over 42 years ago in Petty Cury. Lyons said that the restaurant was closing because of reorganisation within the group. A spokesman said: "The shop does not fit in with our plans for the future"

1974 05 24

The former Lyons Restaurant in Petty Cury, Cambridge, is to be reopened in the autumn as a dress shop. Dorothy Perkins Ltd have been trying to get into Cambridge for some years. The restaurant which opened 42 years ago as a tea shop was closed because of reorganisation. At first the city council planned to investigate reopening it as a Civic restaurant. But their hopes were dashed when Lyons announced they had already sold the premises to a private buyer 74 05 24

1975 09 11

Princess Anne is to put the royal seal of approval on one of Cambridge's most controversial schemes. She has agreed to open the multi-million pound Lion Yard redevelopment complex in December. More than four years have been spent in its construction. Expert critics are unhappy about the scale of the enterprise and its relationship to the previously intimate and recently pedestrianised shopping precinct in Petty Cury. There has also been adverse comment on the nature of the shopping development which, because of the high rents, has made it a virtually unattainable Shangri-La for local businesses.

1975 11 27

Petty Cury building, p5

1975 12 04

Princess Anne, making her first official visit to Cambridge, insisted on an impromptu chat with some of the thousands of sight-seers who thronged the city centre Lion Yard shopping centre. An estimated 10,000 people packed the Market Square and stood eight deep each side of Petty Cury as she walked into the new shopping centre. She stopped to talk to the delighted shop girls who were crowding their doorways and also to the eager shoppers who pressed forward to get a closer look at her. She explained: "I am not a complete stranger here because I have been shown around the university and city unofficially by two previous students who are both fans of the old city"

1977 02 17

What kind of shopping facilities will we see in Cambridge in the future? If recent events are pointers then the small operator will be replaced – just as quaint non-conformist Petty Cury was replaced with the corporate dullness of Lion Yard. The rents jumped enormously leaving the high mark-up multitudes – Golden Egg, Dixons, Van Allen, Etam, Chelsea Girl et al to take the units paying between £3,000 and £18,000 a year in rent. It meant that the variety of shops was reduced. If the Kite complex proposals were to see the light of day then an identical effect could occur.

1978 08 18

Jerry Bol, the popular Cambridge busker, was fined £2 as a result of the police crack-down on street vendors causing obstructions in the Lion Yard shopping precinct. Police said they counted a crowd of 67 people listening to his one-man-band. Mr Bol told the court he became a busker five years ago & since then had appeared in 25 TV programmes & films. "The children of Cambridge call me 'Mr Music Man' and I stand in Petty Cury for their safety. The Duke of Edinburgh and the Mayor of Heidelberg came to see me", he told the court, & would pay his fine with £3 given him by well-wishers since his arrest.

1979 10 13

Cambridge Corn Exchange may be turned into a civic restaurant. The old one in Petty Cury was demolished amid a public outcry nearly eight years ago to make way for the Lion Yard redevelopment. It was started during the Second World War under the Government's British Restaurant plans for providing cheap meals and was continued by the council. It became something of a social centre and meeting place for many old people with nowhere to go during the day.

1980

1984 03 28

Sidney Archer, head chef at Emmanuel College started his career at 14 in the Pitt Club in Jesus Lane, then worked at the University Arms Hotel and the Red Lion in Petty Cury before going to Emmanuel where worked for 40 years. He specialised in sauces and fish dishes and was scheduled to cook lunch for the Queen when she visits in May as part of the college's 400th celebrations. 84 03 28 p4

1984 12 14

Salisbury's newly-restyled store in Petty Cury is just what Cambridge needs. It is one of their latest generation, combining fashion, function and fun. For many years the Salisbury name stood for leather handbags but perhaps mother and grandmother didn't carry so much around as girls today – maybe she didn't go out to work, read so much, do aerobics, jog, drive or make herself up as frequently! Now there are casual bags, executive cases and travel bags as well as umbrellas, hats and knitwear. From the moment the doors opened customers have been pouring in. 84 12 14a & b

1988 08 26

Girls were prettier and better dressed, 60 years ago, say former 'flappers' at an old people's home in Coronation Street. They never relied as heavily on make-up and let fresh air get to their skin. Laura Bidwell, 85, was a tender 17 in 1920 and never wore more than a touch of face powder and a smudge of lipstick which she bought from a small Boots store on the corner of Petty Cury. Beatrice Webb remembers wearing a lacy flapper dresses at a party. "You always had the proper rig-out then, with hat, handbag and shoes to match", says Alice Hodder, 91, 88 08 26

1989 11 07

Rumbelows, the television, video and hi-fi dealers are closing their branch in Petty Cury. The move, which follows the closure of Laskys in the Grafton Centre, signals the extent of distress in High Street retailing. The run up to Christmas ought to be traders' best period of the year. But with interest rates high and many potential shoppers reeling under the effects of increased mortgage payments, business is down. And Petty Cury is amongst the most expensive pitches in Cambridge. 89 11 07